

House Resolution No. 542

Whereas, Gladys Coggsell is a native of New Jersey who moved to Missouri in 1974 and prepared for her chosen field of endeavor through rigorous studies at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, where she earned an Associate's degree in general education; Washington University in St. Louis, where she completed a Certificate with Honors in journalism and a Bachelor's degree in psychology; and the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where she received a Master in Education degree; and

Whereas, married to her beloved Truman for a number of years, Gladys Coggsell is a professional storyteller who performs regularly throughout Missouri and the United States, conducts workshops on community building and the healing powers of family oral histories, and works with local school children in such locales as Boncl, Bowling Green, Curryville, and Frankford to collect and present the traditional stories of their communities; and

Whereas, Gladys Coggsell has enjoyed considerable success as an artist participant in American Traditions, a national program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts to build audiences for folk and traditional arts performances; a touring artist for the Missouri Arts Council; and the subject of PBS feature stories, interviews by CSPAN, and several books, such as Storytellers by Corky Miller and Mary Ellen Snodgrass; and

Whereas, current projects by Gladys Coggsell include her work with apprentices Angela Williams of Hannibal and Loretta Washington of St. Louis to collect, conserve, and tell the stories of the African American experience in Missouri; and

Whereas, a master artist in the Missouri Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program during 1988, 1993, 1995, and 1998, Gladys Coggsell has once again stepped to the forefront of the educational and dramatic stage through her selection by a panel of experts for a repeat performance as a master storyteller in 2003:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the fifth time that Gladys Coggsell has distinguished herself as a master artist with the Missouri Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program and to convey to her this legislative body's heartiest congratulations and best wishes for continued personal and professional success for many more years to come; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of master storyteller Gladys Coggsell of Frankford, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Terry L. Witte
District No. 10

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 542, adopted February 28, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker